

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE can affect our lives in a multitude of ways. How have you noticed its impact? Photo from Creative Commons.

The Consequences of working with AI

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AI is poisoning students' creative thinking and our environment. Since AI made its big breakthrough in 2022, its impact has only become more negative. ChatGPT, Snapchat AI, and Google Gemini are some of the most well known AI search engines, as they generate questions, answers, and ideas.

As time has passed, AI has been relied on more and more, and teachers have caught on and have found ways to detect AI. Some teachers don't even need special software to know if a student used AI.

According to Stanley Lamour, a PE teacher at Westhill, "The work doesn't translate, in the sense of what I see in class versus what is turned in later." Certain departments at Westhill have a set process for if a student is caught plagiarizing or misusing AI. For example, the history department is instructed to not allow a student to receive a letter of recommendation from anyone in that department, if they plagiarized using AI.

If it is decided by a teacher that a student used AI, they will receive an F on their assignment. Many teachers have seen significant

changes in how students complete assignments, and have resorted to only having work done in class where students can be monitored.

"It's being used simply not to do the thinking. And, as a result, the whole process of thinking, deepening your understanding and developing your knowledge base is being lost," says Christine Wheeler, an English teacher at Westhill. There's been a noticeable difference in students' work ethics and memory ability.

Not only is AI changing students and teachers' minds, but also our environment. According to the National Education Association, "Although these technologies operate in virtual spaces, AI and the cloud will intensify greenhouse gas emissions, consume increasing amounts of energy, and require larger quantities of natural resources."

AI is rapidly expanding and growing, with multiple companies making bigger and bigger data centers- which are catastrophically impacting the cities they're in. Residents near these AI data centers report their homes' water quality has even been affected. As students rely more on AI with each passing year, the issue

will continue to worsen. The fact is, most people are not educated about the impact that AI has on our environment, and our community needs to think about how AI is affecting our lifestyles.

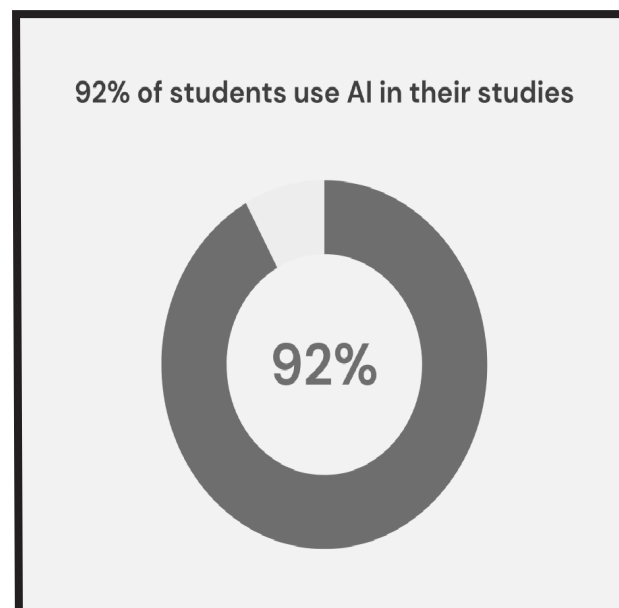


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